

Esteemed Chairperson, other committee members, thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Rachel Cieplak and I am here from the University of Connecticut to oppose Bill SB 1076, Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients.

A few weeks ago, I was informed that a classmate of one of my colleagues children committed suicide. The boy had recently broken up with his girlfriend and the trauma of the situation made him believe that he had nothing more to live for. The boy was twelve years old. The reason that I am bringing this story to your attention is to show that the value of human life is under attack. It seems as though every semester on my college campus, another student's life is lost to this blight. We are confused as to what and who we are living for. Suicide in this country is seen as a blight against society, yet this bill would make suicide a solution to depression, loneliness, and other ills we are trying to fight against in our schools, communities, and homes.

Right now, this bill would allow terminally ill patients the opportunity to ask anyone considered a medical professional, whether a surgeon or a dermatologist, to effectively poison them and end their life. Doctors cannot put a timeline on their patients' lives. However, through this bill, doctors will be able to engrave their patients' tombstones with the tragic day of their passing.

If this bill is passed, we might as well be marking those graves now. For the ills of society are not accomplished through a chance to die, but through supporting a chance to live.

I urge you to vote against this bill and instead promote life-affirming care and resources for all people in these trying times. Thank you for your time.